

SOUTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 1064
 Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

**SBHS MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

___New ___Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Please email my newsletter: Yes ___ No ___

Email: _____

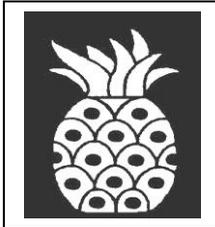
___ *Yes, I would like to help with SBHS projects*

Membership Levels:

Individual	20.00
Family/Library	25.00
Senior (age 65)	10.00
Student	10.00
Business	50.00
Lifetime	250.00
Donation	_____

Please make checks payable to South Brevard Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064.

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South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064

www.southbrevardhistory.org

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

Saturday, May 14, 2016 – 3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

FIELD MANOR

The Field Family, Their House and Its History

Presented by Jane Templeton, President Field Manor Foundation



Field Manor Built Circa 1880

The Field Family, headed by John Moss Field, arrived in Florida in 1868, coming by private conveyance and river boat from Macon, Georgia. They settled on Merritt Island, with two of Mr. Field's sons, J.R. and Sam, homesteading property and playing leadership roles in establishing the community of Indianola. J.R. Field and his wife Eliza built Field Manor in 1880 on their river-front property, which once included over 320 acres. The vernacular farm-style home was the first house built on Merritt Island. It is constructed of native red pine cut on the property, and has housed three generations of the Field family. As the family's citrus business thrived and expanded, a small packing house was constructed near the homestead in 1900, and utilized until the 1930s. Much of the equipment and tools used in this process are preserved there.

The home and surrounding citrus grove was placed on *The National Register of Historic Places* in 1997. The Manor house was occupied by Field family descendants for three generations, and in 2013, upon the death of Alma Clyde Field, the family home and remaining 45 acres were placed into the *Field Manor Foundation*. The Foundation is working to preserve the homestead, groves and farm land. As their work progresses, Field Manor is set to become a working agricultural museum depicting the settlement of Merritt island and showcasing the history and achievements of Indian River citrus farmers and their contributions to the economic growth and development of Central Florida.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS....

Before the railroad and the Dixie Highway were built, visitors traveled by boat to Brevard County via the Indian River Lagoon. As will be highlighted in this month's program, John Moss Field was one of the many travelers to arrive by river boat and remain in Brevard to make a home for his family. It was people like Mr. Field who led to the establishment of the towns we know today.

Human presence along the river started before 8000 BC. Fish speared from the river were a main source of food for generations of inhabitants. From the late 19th Century through World War II, the river was key to the success of the fishing and citrus industries, as well as resort tourism.

This 156-mile "salt water sound" stretches from south of New Smyrna to the Jupiter Inlet with an average depth of 4 feet, and varies in width from ½ mile to 5 miles. This natural feature has been a source of food, travel and commerce since the first human arrived on its shores. The mix of salt water from the Atlantic and the runoff from the mainland mix to create a unique habitat.

The Indian River Lagoon is one of Brevard's historic landmarks and as such, we at SBHS are concerned about its current condition. We are not a political organization, but I think we all can agree on its importance. Not only to the early history of the area, but for its current importance to economic development and recreational activities. This makes the IRL something that should not only be remembered for its past contributions, but also well looked-after to restore it to a healthy condition, thus enabling its enjoyment for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on May 14th.

Don Jennings
South Brevard Historical Society President, 2016
donaldjennings.fl45@gmail.com

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

Saturday – June 11, 2016 3:00 PM
REMEMBERING WHEN: GROWING UP IN BREVARD

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the SBHS, a panel of members will share their recollections of Brevard County and what makes this a unique and memorable place to live. Items of local historic interest will also be on display.

*Programs are free and held the second Saturday of each month
September through June
at the Fee Avenue Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne, Florida*



AROUND BREVARD

Thursday, May 12, 2016 6:00-7:30 PM
Lifelong Scholar Society Presents
The Doppler on Wheels: A Big Dish in a Little Pond

Includes a 60 minute presentation, followed by Q&A and open discussion.
Center for Aeronautics and Innovation
1050 W. Nasa Boulevard, Melbourne

Thursday, May 12, 2016 6:30 PM
Florida Suites

Jeff Thompson presents his film. Discussion will follow.
Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library
3615 Lionel Road, Mims
For further information: 321.264.5080

May 19-21, 2016
The Florida Historical Society
Annual Meeting

This year's theme: *Citrus to Tourism to Tech: Visions of Paradise?* Over 60 presenters will give talks, roundtable discussions and tours.
Embassy Suites by Hilton, Downtown Orlando
For further information call 321.690.1971 or visit
www.myfloridahistory.org

Tour of Field Manor

Saturday, May 21, 2016



As a follow-up to our May 14 presentation on Field Manor, a guided tour will be offered to SBHS members and friends. The tour will last approximately 30 minutes. However, please allow extra time to enjoy the surrounding grounds which include a packing house and citrus groves.

Tours available at :

10:30 – 11:00 AM

11:00 – 11:30 AM

11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

A discount tour rate of \$7.00 is being offered to members and friends of SBHS.

Proceeds from tours help sustain restoration efforts at Field Manor.

Attendance is limited to 30 guests

Please sign up at the May 14 SBHS meeting or call Don Jennings at 321.432.3861

Guests are responsible for their own transportation.

Directions will be provided with a reservation.

*The SBHS thanks AAA Malabar Mini-Storage, located across the street from the Malabar Town Hall, for their generous donation of air-conditioned secure storage for the Society's collections and archives.
We also wish to thank Y. (Rusty) Rutstein, SBHS member and owner of A Better Copy, located at 102 East New Haven Avenue, for providing discounted printing services for the newsletter.*

2016 SBHS HOME TOUR

This year's tour showcased homes built in the early 20th Century along Eau Gallie's Historic Highland Avenue



Photos Courtesy of Denise Bozeman